

THE
True and Admirable HISTORY
^{OF}
PATIENT GRISSEL,
A Poor Man's Daughter in *France*,
^{AND}
Noble Marques of *SALUS*.
^{SHEWING}
How Maids by their good and
vertuous Behaviour, may Marry good HUSBANDS:
And likewise how Wives by their Patience and
Obedience, may gain much Glory;
Being a Pattern for all Vertuous Women.

Written first in French, but now Translated into English.



London, Printed for J. Wright, J. Clarke, W. Thackeray, and T. Passenger. 1682.

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THE

Pleasant and true HISTORY

OF

PATIENT GRISSEL,

and the Noble Marquess of Salus. In which is
exemplified the true Obedience, and Noble Behavi-
our of Vertuous Women toward their Husbands.

CHAP. I.

Of the Noble Birth and Behaviour of the Noble Marquess, and
how he came to affect a Wife.

BETWEEN the Mountains of Italy and France, towards
the South, lyes the Territory of Salus, a Country
flourishing, with excellent Towns and Castles, and
Peopled with the best sort of Gentry and Peasants :
amongst whom there lived, not long since, a Noble-
man, of great hope and expectation, Lord of the
Country, by Name Gualter, Marquess of Salus ; to whom as the Go-
vernment appertained by right of Inheritance, so their obedience attend-
ed by Desert of his worthiness. He was young in years, Noble of Line-
age, and of such lovely Behaviour, that the best thought it a pleasure to
be Commanded by him, and the worst grew more tractable by his good
Example. His delight was in Hunting and Hawking, and the pleasure
of the time present, extinguish'd the care of the time to come : so he
thought not of Marriage, nor to intangle himself with the inconvenience
of a Wife ; till at last the People and Noblemen of his Country,
discontented to see him indisposed that way, and prefiging a kind of
Prosperity to themselves, by his Marriage, assembled together upon
a day, to determine of their resolutions, chusing one for their Speaker :
a Noble Knight, of great Authority, fair Demeanor, eloquent Speech,
and more inward with the Marquess, than any of the rest, to acquaint
the Noble Marquess with their minds ; who being prepared, took an
opportunity to acquaint the Renowned Marquess with the matter, as
followeth :

Most Honourable Sir, the great Humanity extended towards us,

The History of Patient Grissel.

and of which I most especially have Participated, hath thus embolden-
ed me aboue others, to make a further Tryal of your Patience, and for-
bearing my Rudeness, not that there is any sufficiency or singularity
in me aboue others: but that heretofore I have found you so Generous
towards all, I make no question but to find you as Gracious towards
my self; and in that it hath pleased you to accept of our Lords, we are
Proud again to be under your Obedience: wherein we shall rejoyce the
more, if you now accord to our Request the sooner, which is to Marry
without delay. The time passeth and will not be recalled; your Youth
intreats it, and must not be denyed: your Country importunes it, and
would not be opposed; your Neighbours desire it, and hope to be satisfi-
ed: and all sorts request it, and hope it for your Honour. For when
Age approacheth, Death attends it at the Heels; and no Man can tell
when, or how, it will fall upon him. Therefore we humbly request you
to accept our Supplications: which is, that we may provide by your
appointment, a Lady worthy of your Honour and our Subjection. In
this we are the more Suppliant, because it will redound so much to the
good of your Country, and the enlarging your Renown: for if it should
so fall out (which God forbid) that you dye without Issue, we may La-
ment the loss of our Lord, but not Redress the complaints of the Peo-
ple: we want you that was all our Comfort, but are sure of Wiltres to
Everlasting trouble. If then you either love your self, or pity us,
frame a Heart to this Impression, and leave not us to further fear and
disquiet.

When the Noble Lord had thus apprehended the Petition of his lo-
ving Subjects, he resolved to Answer them as Graciously as they had
Propounded the Business with regard of Duty, and so replied, My
Dearest Friends, you have urged me to a matter, in which as yet, I
have been a meer stranger: for in Nature I delight in Liberty, and my
custom continued my pleasures; both which, must needs be curbed by
Marriage, and restrained by taking a Wife; notwithstanding, I cast
away all doubts to pleasure you, and will think of no Incumbiances,
so you may be satisfied. For though Marriage hath many difficulties
attending; especially, that fear of Legitimation in our Children, and
Suspicion of that Honour which lies on our Wives honesty; yet all
shall be overcome with this Resolution; that I shall please you in the
same; for I am resolved, if any good come for Man's contentment by
Marriage, it is from God, to whom I submit this cause, and pray for
the good success of your Wishes, that I may live to maintain your

Peace.

The History of Patient Grissel.

Peace as well as my own Pleasure : and look wherein my contentment, shall enlarge mine Honour, your Welfare shall be respected above my Life ; so that (believe it) I will satisfie your demands, and apply my self to the purpose. Only one thing I request at your hands, to take it worth my choice ; and neither insult if she be a Princess of greatness, nor repine if she be of mean estate : but love her because I have loved you, and regard her howsoever, in that she is my Wife : neither being curious nor inquisitive whom I will chuse, nor disaffected when it is past remedy.

When the Company had heard him out, and found him so willing to their satisfaction, they give him thanks with one Heart for his kind Admission, and answered with one Tongue, he should not find them Repugnant ; but they would Honour his Wife as the Princess of the World. Thus did this new report (like a Messenger of glad tidings) fill all the Country with Joy, and the Palace with Delight, when they understood their Lord would Marry : and in a manner heard the time appointed ; for presently it was Proclaimed through the Country, and a day assigned for all comers to come to the Court. The Nobles prepared themselves in the best manner, the Ladies spared no cost, either for Ornaments of their Bodies, or setting out their Beautys ; the Gentry flocked to please their Lord, and were brave to set out their own greatness ; the Citizens were Rich in their neatness, and handsome in their Attire : the Officers were formal in their shows, and Sumptuous in their attendants ; the Country-man had his variety, and the very Pleasant his bravery : in a word, all sorts glozed in the hope of that Festival, and every Man's expectation attended the day of the Triumph. For never was such a preparation in Salus before, nor such a confluence of People seen in that Country ; for besides the Nobility, many Foreign Princes came to Celebrate this Marriage, and to shew their own greatness. Savoy was near, and sent some from her Snowy Hills. France was near, and sent other from her fruitful Vines. Italy not far off, and sent many from her Pleasant fields : and the Islands round about kept none at home that would come. Thus were his Kindred invited, Strangers admitted, his own People entertained, and all sorts welcomed ; but as yet, no Bride was seen, no Woman named, no Lady designed, no Maid published, no Wife known : only the preparation was much, and the expectation greater.

All this while this Noble Marquess continued his Hunting, and as he had accustomed, resorted much to a Poor Country Village not far from Salus ; where there dwelt a Poor Country Man, named Janicola,

The History of Patient Griffel.

Janicola, overtwoyn in years, and overcome with distress. But as it happens many times, that inward Graces do moderate outward Discouragements, and that God seasoneth Poverty with contentment and their sufficient supplantation; so had this Poor Man all his defects supplied in the Admirable Consort of one only Daughter; so Composed, as if Nature determined a work of Ostentation. For such was her Beauty and Vertue, not only in appearance, but in reality; that it put Judicious Men to an extasse in the choice by comparison; but both united, did here grace each other: and when they pretended an action, it was all to go forward to perfection. And whereas in others, this Temporary Blessing gave Wings to desire, to be seen and known abroad; in her those Innate Vertues assayed the heat of all manner of Passion, and breaking out of frailty. The Vines they had were but mean, and the diet they kept was to satissfie Nature: the time was over-ruled by their Stoicisms, and the Ceremonies they used, were thanks to God, and moderation in their repasts. The Utensils of the House were homely, yet handsome, in regard of their cleanliness; that Bed which they had, the Old Man lay in, and the Sweet Daughter made shift with the ground: no day passed without Prayers and Praises to God (for was it not Praiseworthy, to have such grace in this disgrace?) nor any night without taking account of the day passed. Her Exercise was to help her Father in the Mowing, and drive forth her Sheep in the day time; he was at home making of Nets, and he abroad looking to her Lambs: she was never heard to wish for any better, but to thank God it was no worse. No word of repining ever came from her Mouth, or the least grudge from her Heart: at night she followed her Sheep, and dressed her Father's Supper: then lay they down to rest, and rested as well as in a Bed of Down indeed. This was the Gloy of their Poverty, and Remedy of their contentment.

But as ~~after~~ ^{it} will not be hid where there is matter combustible, so Vertue will not be obscured where there be Tongues and Ears: nor could the Marquess so hollow after his Hawks and Hounds, but the report of the Vertuous and Fair Daniel hollowed in his Ear (as tall) this wonderment; inasmuch, that when it was construed by judicious Relation, he made it no vainly to be beholding to his own experience. Which when he saw concurring with some, the Miracle brought a kind of astonishment; which continuing the Properties of such Nobelities, increased to Meditation; and in comparing the rest with this rarity, he thought her a fit Woman to make his Wife: supposing that if she were

The History of *Patient Grissel*.

were Vertuous by Nature, she could not prove Vicious by Education; but rather as a Diamond is a Stone of the same Value, whether set in Lead or Gold, it must needs be of more Excellency Embellished with Gold and Enamel. In which Resolution he prepared his heart, and went forward with his business.

In the mean time the Court was daintily furnished, the Plate prepared, the Apparel Magnificent, the Coronet Rich, the Jewels Precious, the Ornament Exceeding, and all things besitting the Magnificence of a Prince, and the Dignity of a Queen; only the Nobles wondered, the Ladies were amazed, the Maids marvelled, the Gentry disputed, the People flocked, and all sorts attended, to see who should possess his Wealth, and be adorned with these Robes. At last the Nuptial day came indeed, and all looked for a Bride; but who she was, the next Chapter must discover.

C H A P. II.

How after all this great preparation, the Noble Marquess of *Salus* demanded *Grissel* of her Poor Father *Janicola*, and Espousing her, made her Marchioness of *Salus*.

When all things were prepared for this Glorious Shew, the Noble Marquess (as if he went to fetch his Wife indeed) took with him a great Company of Earls, Lords, Knights, Esquires, and Gentlemen, Ladies and Attendants; and went from the Pallace into the Country towards *Janicola's* House; where the fair Maid *Grissel* knowing nothing of that which happened, nor once dreaming of that which was to come, had made her House and all somewhat handsome, determining (with the rest of her Neighbour Virgins) to see this Solemnity: at which instant arrived the Marquess with all his Glorious Company, meeting with *Grissel* as he was carrying two Pitchers of Water to her Poor Father's House. Of whom (calling her by her Name) he asked where her Father was? she humbly answered, in the House: So then, said he, and tell him I would speak with him. So the Poor Old Man (made the Poorer by his astonishment) came forth to him somewhat abashed; till the Marquess taking him by the hand, with an Extraordinary Cheerfulness, said, that he had a Secret to impart unto him: and so Sequestering him from the Company, spake these words. *Janicola*, I know that thou always lovedst me, and am resolved, that you dost not now hate me; you have been glad when I have been pleased, and will not now be sorrowful, if I be satisfied: nay, I am sure if it lie in your Power, you will further my Delight, and not

The History of Patient Grissel

not be contrary to my request. For I intend to beg your Daughter for my Wife, and be your Son-in-Law for your advancement. What sayest thou Man, wilt thou accept me for a friend, as I have appointed thee for a father? The Poor Old Man was so astonished, that he could not look for tears, nor speak a word for joy; but when the extalle had end, he thus faintly replied, My Gracious Sovereign, you are my Lord, and therefore I must accord to your will; but you are Generous, and therefore I presume on Vertue: take her a God's Name, and make me a glad father, and let that God, which raiseth the humble and meek, make her a befitting Wife, and fruitful Mother. Why then, quoth the Marquess, let us enter your House: for I must ask her a Question before you. So he went in, the company rarrying without in great astonishment: the fair Maid was busied to make it as handsome as she could, and Proud again to have such a Guest under her Roof; amazed at nothing, but why he should come so accompanied, and little Conjecturing of so great a Blessing approaching. But at last, the Marquess took her by the hand, and used these speeches; To tell you this blush becomes you, it were but a folly; and that your modesty hath graced your comeliness, may prove the deceit of words, and unbefitting my greatness; but in a word, your Father and I, have agreed to make you my Wife, and I hope you will not disagree to take me to your Husband. For delay shall not intangle you with suspicion, nor two days longer protract the kindness; only I must be satisfied in this, if your Heart afford a willing entertainment to the motion, and your Vertue a constancy to this resolution: Not to repine at my Pleasure in any thing, nor presume on contradiction when I determine to Command. For as amongst good Soultiers, they must simply obey without disputing the business: so must Vertuous Wives desirously consent without reproof, or the least contradiction of a Brow. Therefore be advised how you answer, and I charge you take heed, that the Tongue utter no more then the Heart conceits. All this while was Grissel wondering at the Miracle, had not Religion told her, that nothing was impossible to the Commander of all things; which reduced her to a better consideration, and thus brought forth an answer.

My Gracious Lord, I am not ignorant of your greatness, and know my own baseness: there is no worth in me to be your Servant, therefore there can be no desert to be your Wife; notwithstanding, because God will be the Author of Miraculous Accidents, I yield to your Pleasure, and praise him for the Fortune: only this I will be bold to say,
That

The History of Patient Grissel.

That your will shall be my delight ; and Death shall be more welcome unto me, than a word of displeasure against you.

¶ This is sufficient, answered the great Lord, and so most lovingly he took her by the hand, and brought her to the Company, even before all his Peers and great Ladys, and told them she should be his Wife : so that wherein they extended their Love, Reverence, and Obedience towards her, he would exemplifie his Regard, Care, and Diligence toward them. And because outward shewes do sometimes grace befitting actions (lest her Poverty and Baseness might too much daunt their expectation, and seem disgracious to their nobleness) he Commanded them with a Royal Libeliness to adorn her with the Richest Robes they had ; so that it was a Pleasure to see how the Ladies bestirred themselves : a delight to behold the federal services performed, the many hands about her, the Jewels and Pendants, the Robes and Mantles, the Diamonds, Coronets, and Chains ; with all other Particulars and Accoutrements ; but when she was Apparellled indeed, it was a Ravishment exceeding report, and they which scorned her preferment, were now delighted with her Gloze.

C H A P. III.

How the Marquess and Grissel were Married together.

After the Ladies had thus adorned Poor Grissel with Robes befitting her Estate, the Marquess and all the Noble Company returned to Salus, and in the Cathedral Church, in sight of the People, according to the fulness of Religious Ceremonies, they were Espoused together, and with great Solemnity returned to the Palace. Herein yet consisted the Admiration, that no word of reproach was murmured, nor Eye looked unpleasantly upon her : for by her wonderful demeanour, she had gained so much of Opinion, that the meanness of her Birth was not thought upon, and all her Graces concurring, made them verily believe, she was Extracted of Princely Lineage : no Man once supposed, that she could be Grissel, Daughter to Poor Janicola ; but rather some Creature Metamorphosed by the Powers of Heaven : for besides the outward Stateliness and Majestical carriage of her self, the wonderful modesty and exact Symmetry of her countenance, the admirable Beauty and extraordinary Labour of her Visage, her fair Demeanour had a kind of attraction, and her gracious words, a sweet delivery : so that all that came to her were glad of their access, and they

The History of Patient Grissel.

which went from her, triumphed for their good speed: yea, report extended so far, that she was not only visited by her own Lords and Ladies with reverence, but attended on with strangers, who came from all quarters to see her, and to be beholding to their own judgments: so that if the Marques loved her before for her own worth, he now revered her for others respect; the rather, because he found a blessing attending her presence, and all People pleased in the Contract. For when any contumelie happened betwixt himself and his Nobles, she was so nobly minded, that what she could not obtain by fair intreaty, she yet intigated by sweet perswasion. When any unkindness happened of forraign Princes, she urged those Blessings of Peace, and reasoned the matter with delightful enforcement; and when the People were either complained of, or against, he marvelled from whence she had those pretty reasons to allwage his anger, and they verily believed the Word sent from Heaven for their relief. Thus was she amiable to her Lord, acceptable to her People, profitable to her Country, a mirrour of her Sex, a Person privileged by Nature, and a wonder of the time, in which she did nothing out of time; so that the Marques was rather ravished than loving, and all his Subjects resolved to Obedience from her good example.

CHAP. IV.

How the Lady Grissel was proved by her Husband, who thus made Tryal of her Patience.

TOther Blessings in Process of time, there was added the Birth of a sweet Infant Daughter, that rejoiced the Mother, and gladdened the Father, the Country triumphed, and the People clapped their hands for joy. For the Marques still loved her more and more, and they thought their lives not dear for her, if occasion served. Notwithstanding all this, Fortune hath still a Trick to check the Pride of Life, and Prosperity must be seasoned with some Crosses, or else it would taint and corrupt us too much. Whereupon, the Marques determined now to prove his Wife, and make Tryal of her Vertues indeed; and so taking a convenient season, after the Child was fully weaned, he one day repaired secretly to her Chamber, and (sneaking half angry,) thus imparted his mind.

Although Grissel, this your present Fortune hath made you forget your former Estate, and that the solity of your Life overwayeth the
remem.

The History of *Patient Grissel*:

remembrance of your Birth; yet, neither is set so with me, nor my Nobles: for I have some occasion of distasting, and the great cause of repining, in that they must be subject to one so base, and have still before their eyes our Children of such low degree; so that though (for my sake) they rest satisfied for the present, yet are they resolved never to suffer any of your Posterity to rule over them: of which, as they have disputed with me, I cannot chuse but forewarn you; therefore to prevent this discontentment between us, and to maintain that Peace which must corroborate my Estate, I must needs yield to their judgments, and take away your Daughter from you, to preserve their amity; the thing I know must be displeasing to Nature, and a Mother cannot well endure such a loss: but there is now no remedy, only make use of your first resolutions, and remember what you promised me at the beginning of our contract.

The Lady hearing this sorrowful Preamble, and apprehending the Marquess's resolution, to her grief (although every word might have been as Arrows in her sides) yet admitting of the temptation, and disputing with her self to what end the Vertues of Patience, Modesty, Forbearance, Fortitude, and Magnanimity were ordained, if they had not subjects to work upon, and objects to look after, thus replied.

My Lord, you are my Sovereign, and all Earthly Pleasures and contentments of my Life come from you, as the Fountain of my happiness; and therefore please your self, (and believe it) it is my pleasure that you are pleased: as for the Child, it is the gift of God and yours. Now he that gives may take away, and as we receive Blessings from Heaven, so must we not dote on them on Earth: lest by setting our minds too much upon them, we cannot set off our Hearts when they are taken from us; only one thing I desire, that you remember I am a Mother, and if I burst not out into passion for her loss, it is for your sake I am no more perplexed: and so you shall ever find me a Wife besitting your desires.

When the Marquess saw her constancy, and was in a manner pleased with her modest answer, he replied not at all at that time, for his Heart was full, and what between joy and fear he departed: joy, that so great Vertue had the increase of goodness; fear that had presumed too far on such a Treach: but resolved in his business, he went to put it to the adventure.

The History of *Patient Grissel*.

C H A P. V.

The Marquess sent for his Daughter, but privately disposed of her with his Sister, the Dutchesse of *Bologna de Grace*, who brought her up in all things befitting the Child of so great a Person.

NOT long after this sad conference between the Marquess and his Lady, he called a faithful servant unto him, to whom he imparted this secrecie; and with seberal instructions, what he truly meant to do with the Child, sent him to his Wife with an unlaboury message; which yet he delivered in this manner.

I had not now come to you most Noble Lady, though that Power Commanded me, which hath my life in subjection, if I had not more relied upon your Wisdome and Vertue, then feared Death it self. Therefore I crave Pardon if I am displeasing in my Message, and seem cruel (as it were) in tearing your flesh from your bones, by tearing you of this your Daughter: for he hath appointed it that must not be gain-said, and I am a Messenger that cannot be denyed: but yet, with what unwillingness (God knows my Soul) in regard that you are so respected amongst us, that we think of nothing but what may delight you, and talk not a word, but of your Merit and Worthyness.

When she had heard him out, remembryng the conference the Marquess had with her, and apprehending there was no disputing in a matter remediless, especially with a Messenger, she resolved it was ordained to dye: and although she must now (as it were) commit it to a slaughter-house, whereby any Woman in the World might with good becoming have burst out into some passion, and well enough shewed a distracted errand; yet recollecting her spirits, and reclaiming those motions of Nature already stirring in her Bowels, she took the Child in her Arms, and with a Mothers Blessing, and sweetened Kisses, the countenance somewhat sad, and the gesture without any violent Execution, delivered it unto the fellow, not once amazed nor discompered, because her Lord would have it so, and she knew not how to have it otherwise: only she said, I must, my Friend, intreat one thing at your hands, that out of Humanity and Christian Observation, you leave not the Body to be devoured of Beasts or Birds; for it was worthy of a Grave in her Innocency, and Christian Burial, though she were but my Daughter alone.

The fellow having received the Child, durst not tarry, for fear of discovering (such impression had her words made already) but returned
with

The History of *Patient Grissel*.

with it to his Master : not leaving out the least Circumstance of her answer, nor any thing might enlarge her Renown and Constancy.

The Marques considering the great Vertue of his Wife, and looking on the Beauty of his Daughter, began to enter into a kind of Compassion, and to retract his wilfulness ; but at last, Resolution won the field of Piry : and having (as he thought) so well begun, would not so soon give over : but with the same secrecy he had taken her from his Wife, he sent it away to his Sister, the Dutchess of Bologna, with Presents of worth, and Letters of gratification, containing in them the Nature of the business, and the manner of her bringing up ; which she accordingly put in practice, receiving her Piece with joy, and instructing her with diligence : so that it soon appeared, under what Tutelage she was, and whose Daughter she might be. For her Pregnancy learned whatsoever they taught her, and the Grace she added, quickly discovered, that Honour had confederated with Nature to make her the Offspring of such a Mother.

C H A P. VI.

The Marques not contented with this Proof, took away also her Son ; in which Adversity (with other Additions) she shewed an extraordinary Patience.

After this Tempest was overpast, the Rage whereof might easily have broken the tender Woes of Poor Grissels Back, (for she very ly believed that her Daughter was slain) the Marques still lay in wait for the Tryal of his Wife : watching every opportunity which might acquaint him with her discontents ; especially if he might understand where she complained of his Rigoroulness and unkindness, or no, but when he not only was advertised of her constancy and fair demeanour, but saw (by experience) that she was neither Elevated in Prosperity, nor Defeated in Adversity : when he perceived so great a temperature between the joy of her advancement, and the sorrow for her trouble, he wondered at her constancy, and the rather, because her Love and Observation toward him continued with such sweetness, and had such delectable passages, that his Heart was set on fire again, and he knew not how to allay the extremities of his joy. In this manner passed four years, wherein she over-passed all of her kind ; and he thought it a Donative from Heaven to have such a Wife. At last, Nature belivred her self again, and made her a happy Mother of a fair Son ; the joy whereof, led the whole Court,

The History of Patient Grissel.

Country into the House of Prayer and Thanksgiving ; so that she well perceived how acceptable she was to her People, and beloved of her Husband. Notwithstanding, with the same water that dyed the Mill, he dyed it, and made her still believe the contrary ; for after two Years, that the Child was past the danger of a Cradle, and the trouble of Infancy, he took occasion once again to inflict upon the Vertuous Grissel a new punishment ; erecting his building upon the Old Foundation. You know, saith he, what former contentions I have had with my Nobility about our Marriage, not that they can lay any imputation on you, or your worthy behaviour, but on my Fortune and disastrous Affection, to match myself so meanly : wherein yet their forward exprobation was rebated, all the while we either had no Children, or that they supposed, those which we had to be taken from us : all which ariseth out of the Error of Ambition, (which in a manner is careless of Vertue) respecting nothing but a high Progeny : so that ever since this Child was born, there hath passed many secret grudgings, and unkind speeches against it, as if it were a disparagement to their greatness, to have a Lord of so mean Parentage, and the Country to be subject to the Grand-child of Janicols, whom you see, never since our Marriage, they would admit to place of Honour, or to overtop them by way of Association ; nor will suffer this my Gsalter, though it carry the Father's Name to rule over them. Therefore, to allay the heat of these present fires, and to preserve the Peace of my Estate (by preventing the mischief of future troubles) I am resolved to settle my contentment, and to deal with your Son, as I have dealt with your Daughter. And of this I thought good to Advertise you, as a preparative for Patience, lest Sorrow should distract you with over suddenness.

Now you Ladies and Dames of these times, that stand upon terms of Spirit and greatness of heart (some will have it Courage and Magnanimity of mind) that are affrighted at the Character of a Fool, and silly Poor Soul. I speak not of Strumpets, or of such as are willing to brand themselves with the impurity of uncleanness, and dare out of impudency or cunning tell their Husbands to their faces, they will go where they list, and do what they please ; but of such, that under that Impregnable Target of Honesty, are yet so impatient at every distemperance, that they dare answer taunt for taunt : yea, like Virago's indeed, offer the first blow, though a horrible confusion follow ; what would you have, answered this Lord ? or with what Fire-works would you have

The History of Patient Griffel:

have made your approaches unto him? I would not desire your answer, lest I pull the Old House in pieces, and so though I scape the Timber, I may be crushed with the Rubbish; but I will now anticipate (or prevent) all objections, by telling you what late Griffel said; and if there be hope of Reformation, insert it as a Caution, to divert you from your Natural fierceness.

When she had heard him out, though to the grief of her Soul, she conceived the Murder of her Child, and that the apprehension renewed the sorrow of her Daughters loss: yet would she give no way to such distemperature, that either she should have cause to suspect her Patience, or she her self the temptation of disquiet: and therefore thus replied, My Lord, I have many times told you, that my Soul rejoiceth in nothing but in your reposefulness, for you are the Lord of me and this Infant: and though I could be contented to shew my self a Mother in his Education, and bring him now and then unto you as a pledge of our loves, yet are you the Commander of my bows, and I will rectifie all disordered Appetites by the rule of your pleasure. Take him then, and if he be marked for Death, it is but the common hand of all Creatures: Nay, if the Mother be a Sacrifice of Propitiation to appease your disquiet, never was Lamb so meek, nor so willing to be offered. For, what may be comprehended under the Titles of Father, Kindred, Children, Friends, Life, Pleasure, Honour and Contentment, are all comprized under your loss, and the society of a Husband. Do with me then what you please, the Body shall serve your turn while it lives, and the Soul attend you after Death.

Here was an answer to pacifie the Tyrants of Sicily, and put a Man quite out of his tract of probing such a Wife; yet the Marquess only made use of it to rejoyce in the assurance of her goodness, and went the rather forward in his dangerous course of temptation.

C H A P. VII.

The Marquess resolute to prove his Wife further, sendeth for his Son, and disposeth of him as he had done of his Daughter.

AS this Patient and wonderful Lady was one day sporting with her Infant, like an untimely tempest (spoiling the Beauty of some new rooted plants) did this Messenger of Death interpose himself between the recreation, making the hollow demand of her Son worse than the noise of a Screech-owl o'er a Sick Man's Bed, yet (as if there were a conscience in disquieting her greatness, or if you will, her goodness) he came forward with Preambles and Apologies, in-

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The History of *Patient Grissel*.

nuating with craving pardon the Authority of a Lord, the Duty of a Servant, the Terror of Death, the Circumstances of Obedience, and all other enforcements which might either excuse a Well-enger, or make the Message it self without blame. What should I enlarge a discourse of a Terror? It is a courtesie to conclude a mischief with quickness: he was not so sudden in his demand, as she was ready in her dispatch; for she presently blessed the Child, killed it, adorned it, and delivered it to the Executioner: only with the same enforcement she pleaded, as she had spoken of in the behalf of her Daughter: not to let it perish for want of a Burial, or devoured for want of a Grave.

In this manner, and with this report he returned to his Lord, who had still more cause of amazement, and less reason to trouble such a Creature, had not his wilfulness put him forward to make an end of his business, and taught him still variety of trying this Gold in the Fire. But for the time, he sent likewise this Child to his Sister, the Dutchess of Bologna, who understanding her Brother's mind, brought up both these Children in such a fashion, that though no Man knew whose Children they were, yet they imagined whose they might be; that is, the Son and Daughter of some Prince, or other Potentate, willing to have his Children brought up to the best purpose, and bestitting their Birth and Honour.

The ordering of this business in this sort, made the Marquess once again settle himself in Salus, where he kept open House to all courtiers: and was proud of nothing so much, as the Honour of his Wife, and the Love of his People; for although he had thus tryed her Patience and Constancy, giving her more then sufficient cause of anguish and perturbation, yet could he not find fault, or at the least demonstration of offence, but still she loved him more and more: and was so seriously dutiful, and cautious of displeasure, that many times he grew enamored of that he might command, and seemed passionate in the distractions of over-joy. For could the length of time make this love wearisome, for all they had lived thus a dozen Years together: only she got the hand of him in the Opinion of the People: who by this time began to whisper against his unkindness, that had Married so Vertuous a Woman, and bereaved her of two Children, so that if they were slain, it was a Murder: if otherwile, it was unkindness. For though she were Don Janicola's Daughter by Birth, yet she might come from Heaven for her Vertue; and was sure to go with her for her Piety. Notwithstanding, these breakings-out, which
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The History of *Patient Grissel*.

came often to the Ears of his Honour, such was her moderation and his Government, that they only whispered the same in her behalf, and contented themselves with expectation of future good, as they had the fruition of present happiness; not meddling with the same further than in the commendation of her, and still acknowledging their duty to him: so that although he knew she might this way understand his former reasons of taking away her Children, that it was but a device, and that there were some other motives which procured their unkindness; yet was he still obstinate to exercise her Patience, and conceit heat out another plot of offence on the Anvil of a loving, yet most hardened Heart.

C H A P. VIII.

The Marquess to try his Lady further, made her believe he would Marry another Wife.

SOME Dozen Years were passed, since the Marquess of Salus had sent his Daughter to Bologna, to his Sister, who by this time, was grown to that Beauty, Comeliness and Perfection, that her Fame buſted all Europe; and the Lady Grissel her Mother was made acquainted with her excellency: whereupon he very strangely sent to Rome, by a Messenger of trust, for counterfeit Letters to Marry his Paragon, and to be dispensed from his first Wife: which was so effectually dispatched, that the Messenger soon returned with the approbation of his request, and he himself had many allegations in readiness to excuse the matter, intimating the good of the Country, and the continual desire of his People for the alteration; which although it was far from Probability, because they pitied their Ladies distress, and rather repined against their Lord's unconstancy, yet it served his turn for the time, and he thereupon erected the frame of this second Marriage. By this time is fair Grissel acquainted with the business, and troubled at this misfortune: but having many times played the wanton with affliction, she resettled her self to endure whatsoever should be imposed: so that when she came to proof indeed, nothing affronted her constancy, nor humbled her lower, than her own Vertue had taught her the way.

In the mean while the Marquess under-hand sent to his Sister to bring him his Children with all the Pomp and Glory they could prepare: with caution, not to discover their Names, and to be at a day appoint-

The History of Patient Grissel.

ed at Salus : so that it passed for currant all over the Country, that a Young, Brave and Gallant Lady, of great Lineage, and greater worth, of high Renown, and mighty Affinity, was coming into Salus, to be Espoused to the Marquess ; and that they were already come out of Bologna de Grace, a whole days journey forward, with such a Troop, and Company, that here was a shew of Magnificence, and a spectacle of delight. For amongst the rest, there was a Young Lord, not fully Eight Years Old, whose bravery and gallantness drew all mens eyes with admiration toward him, had not the Lady divided the gazing, and shared with their opinion. For besides her Riches and outward Ornaments, and Gracious Behaviour, she was of extraordinary Stature and Majestick presence.

These things thus disposed and handsomely carried, the Marquess took an opportunity thus to speak to the disconsolate Grissel, before all his People : In times past, I confess you deserved my Love, and notwithstanding the disparity between us, I thought it well bestowed upon you ; nay, I cannot now impute any ill desert unto you : notwithstanding, for some reason to my self best known, I am resolved to take another Wife ; who as you hear, is on the way hitherward already : therefore, I would advise you to retire to your Father's Cottage, till you hear further from me.

Alas, my Lord, replied the sweet Soul, I ever disputed the matter with reason, that there was no equality between so great Magnificence and my Humiliation ; and in the greatest assurance of my Prosperity, reputed my self a Vassal and Hand-maid, proud of nothing but my own readiness to be at your Command, and your willingness to employ me in your Affairs : so that I take God to be my Witness, I scarce trusted my self with the Name of a Wife, when I was in the best assurance : therefore, I must acknowledge what you have heretofore bought as a part of great bounty, and the very fruits of your generosity. As for returning to my poor Father's House, I am most willing ; and there, as you please, like a poor Person, will spend the rest of my days : yet, remember I was your Wife, espoused orderly, and you have had Children by me ; so that if I there dye, I must yet dye the Widow of such a Lord, and for Honours sake be so reputed. As for your new Spouse, God grant her many days of comfort, and you many Years of joy, that you may live in reciprocal delight one with another, and entertain no worse contentment, than poor Grissel accustomed.

The History of Patient Grissel.

ed. As for my Dowry I brought, I brought only my self, and will have no more back again: which was, Faith, Love, Reverence, Poverty, and Virginity: for as I came naked from my Father's House, I am contented to return so again. Your Jewels are in the War: Robe, and even the Ring you gave me withal, in the Chamber of this I wear, I shall quickly be disrobed, and if there be any further misery appointed, my Patience can endure it, if your Pleasure impose it; only in recompence of my Virginity, I request a Poor Smock to hide that Ulomb from Publick over-looking, that was once so private to so great a Prince; and because it was the Bed of your Infants, let it not be the scorn of your People: but give me leave thus to go out of the Palace, that hereafter times may wonder, how quietly a Woman yielded to so great a change. Nay, let no Man shed a tear, I must be more naked than so; for though the Wife of a Marquess while I lived, and the Widow when I dyed, yet am I not too good for a Grave, but in despite of Pride, must return to Dust and Ashes.

Did I say before they began to weep? I can assure you, when she had done, they roared out-right; yea, the Marquess himself shed so many tears, that he was fain to retire, and Commanded the Smock she had begged to be sent unto her, that he might prosecute the enterprise, and he determined his business, as he had constantly projected.

CHAP. IX.

How Patient Grissel was disrobed of her Apparel, and restored all that she had (except one Poor Smock) to the Marquess.

After this, the Marquess being resolved to shew the last act of her Treach, sent her the Smock she demanded; among all the Lords, Knights, Ladies, and other Company, she presently disrobed her self, and went so accompanied from the Palace, to her Father's Cottage: who as you have heard, (for divers reasons) was only kept from want, but never advanced out of the same.

The Company could not chuse but weep and deplore the alteration of Fortune, she could not chuse but smile, that her Vertue was predominant over passion; they exclaimed against the cruelty of her Lord, she disclaimed the least incentive against him; they wondered at her so great great Vertue and Patience, she resolved them that they were Creatures besetting a modest Woman; they followed her with true Love and

The History of *Patient Grissel*.

desires to do her good: she thanked them with a true Heart, and requested them to desist from any further deploing of her Estate.

By this time they approached the House, and the Poor Old Man Janicola acquainted with the Hurliburly, came out to see what the matter was: and finding it was his Daughter in her Smock, and in so Honourable a Company, bemoaning her distress, he quickly left them all unspoke unto, and ran in for those Poor Robes, which were formerly left in the House; with which he quickly arrayed her, and told her before them all, that now she was in her right Element; and kissing her, bid her welcome. The Company was as much astonished at his moderation, as at her constancy, wondering how Nature could be so restrained from passion, and that any Woman had such Grace to be so Gracious; in which amaze, not without some reprehension of Fortune, and their Lord's cruelty, they left her to the Poverty of the Cell, and returned themselves to the Glory of the Palace: where they recounted to the Marquess the strangeness of the business, and the manner of the accidents, and how she continued in her first moderation and indefatigable Patience: the Poor Father only laughing to scorn the miseries and sudden mutability of Humane condition, and comforting his Daughter in her well begun courses of modesty and reposefulness.

Not long after, approached the Dutchess of Bologna, with her Glorious Company and Beautiful Lady, sending word before-hand, that she would be at Salus such a day: whereupon the Marquess sent a Troop to welcome her, and prepared the Court for her entertainment: the bruit of which yet had not so equal a passage, but divers contrary opinions thus bandoned themselves: some absolutely condemned the Inconstancy of the Lord, others deplored the misfortune of the Lady; some repined to see a Man so cruel against so great worthyness, others exemplified her Passions to all Eternity: some were transported with the gallant Youth, and comeliness of this new Beautiful Virgin, others presumed to parallel the fair Grissel, but that she had styped a little before her in years: some harped upon her great Nobility and high Lineage, others compared the former Wilbes Vertue and true Wisdom: some excused their Lord, by the Love to his Country, others excused the Lady, by the Nature of the Abberity, until the approach of the fair Virgin and the young Nobleman in her Company, extinguished all former conceits, and set them to a new work, concerning this spectacle, wherein the young Lady, and her brave Brother, had such pre-
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The History of Patient Grissel.

minence : nor knew the Duke himself, or any of the Company on either side, that they were his own Children by Grissel, but merely Strangers, and designed for this new Marriage. So the great Marques made good semblance, and with his accustomed Courtlines, welcomed them all to the Palace.

The very next Morning, (as if you will, the Day before) he sent a Messenger for Grissel, to come unto him in the very same manner as she was : who protracted no time, but presently attended her Lord : at her approach he was somewhat appalled, but yet setting (as we say) the best foot forward, he thus proceeded.

The Lady Grissel, with whom I must Marry, will be here to Morrow, by this time, and the feast is prepared accordingly ; now because there is none so well acquainted with the Secrets of my Palace, and disposition of my self as you, I would have you for all this bare attire, address your Wisdom to the ordering of the business, appointing such Officers as is bestitting ; and disposing the Rooms, according to the Degrees and Estate of the Persons : let the Lady have the privilege of the Marriage Chamber, and the young Lord the pleasure of the Gallery : let the rest be lodged in the Courts, and the better sort upon the sides of the Garden : let the Vines be plentiful, and the Ceremonies maintained ; let the Shadows be sumptuous, and the Pastimes as it becometh : in a word, let nothing be wanting, which may set forth my Honour, and delight the People.

My Lord, lastly she, I ever told you, I took Pleasure in nothing but your contentment : and whatsoever might consort to your delight, therein consisted my joy and happiness ; therefore make no question of my diligence and duty in this, or any other thing which it shall please you to impose upon me : and so like a poor Servant she presently addressed her self to the business of the House ; performing all things with such a quickness and Grace, that each one wondered at her goodness and fair demeanour, and many murmured to see her put to such a Tryal. But the day of entertainment is now come, and when the fair Lady approached, her very presence had almost extinguished the impression of Grissel's worthiness ; for some unconstant humourists gave way to the alteration, not blaming the Marques for such a change : but when the Strangers were made acquainted with the fortune of Grissel, and saw her fair demeanour, they could not but esteem her a Woman of great Vertue and Honour : being more amazed at her Patience, than

The History of Patient Grissel.

at the mutability of Men's condition; till at last she approached the Lady, and taking her by the hand, used this speech.

Lady, if it were not his Pleasure that may Command to bid you welcome, yet methinks there is a kind of over-ruling Grace from Nature in you, that must exact a respect unto you. And as for you, Young Lord, I can say no more, but if I might have my desires satisfied in this World, they should be employed to wish you well, and to endeavour all things for your entertainment indeed. To the rest I afford what is besting; desiring them, that if any deficiency amate their expectation, they would impute it either to my ignorance or negligence: for it is the pleasure of him, in whose will is all my pleasure, than in all sufficiency you should have regard and suppliment. And so he conducted them to their several Chambers, where they reposed themselves a while, till the time of Dinner invited them to repast. When all things were prepared, and the solemnity of placing the guests finished, the Marquess lent for Grissel; and standing on his feet, took her by the hand before them all, erecting his body, and clating his voice in this manner. You see the Lady is here I mean to Marry, and the Company gloriously prepared to witness the same: are you therefore contented that I shall thus dispose of my self, and do quietly yield to the alteration?

My Lord, replied she before them all, wherein as a Woman, I might be faulty. I will not now dispute: but because I am your Wife, and have devoted my self to Obedience, I am resolved to delight my self in nothing but your Pleasure: so that if this match be designed for your good, and determined by your appointment, I am much satisfied, and more than much contented. And for you Lady, I wish you the delights of your Marriage, and the honour of your Husband, many Years of Happyness, and the fruits of a chaste Wedlock: only Gracious Lord, take heed of one thing, that you try not this New Bride as you have done your Old Wife; for she is Young, and peradventure of another strain, and so may want of that Patience and Government, which I, poor I have endured.

Till this, he held out bravely; but Nature overcoming Resolution, and considering with what strange variety his unkindness had passed, he could not answer a word for tears: and all the Company stood confounded at the matter, wondering what would be the end of the business, and the success of the extasie. But to draw them out of their doubts, the next Chapter shall determine the controversy.

The History of Patient Grissel.

CHAP. X.

The Oration of the Marques to his Wife, and the discovery of her Children, to her great joy, and the contentment of all the Company.

After a little reduction of his Passion, at that time, and further meditation had disposed his senses to their perfect State, the Marques Graciously answered.

Thou wonder of Woman, and champion of true Vertue; I am ashamed of my imperfections, and tired with abusing thee. I have tryed thee beyond reason, and thou hast forgiven me beyond modesty: believe it therefore, I will have no Wife but thy self, and when God hath thought thee too good for the Earth, I will (if it be not too much Superstition) Pray to thee in Heaven. Oh, 'tis a Pleasure to be acquainted with thy worth, and to come near thy goodness, maketh a Man better than himself. For without controverſie, except thou hadst been sent from above, thou couldst never have acted a Goddesse part below: and therefore, seeing I have used thee too unkindly heretofore, I protest never to disquiet thee hereafter: and wherein my cruelty extended against thee, in bereaving thee of thy Children, my love shall now make amends in restoring thee thy Daughter. For this my New Wife is she, and this wanton her Brother: thank this great Lady (my Sister) for their bringing up, and this Man, (you know him well enough) for his secrecy. Be not amazed at the matter, I have related a truth, and will consign it on my Honour: only sit down till the Dinner is done, and bid the Company welcome in this Poort attire; for the Sun will break through slender Clouds, and Vertue shine in bafe array. I could much dilate the matter, but it is time to end, lest the Circumstances will never end. This device of the Marquesse, of kissing her so lovingly, and setting her down by him so discreetly, did much good. For the Company had time to dispute of the Miracle, and the Young Lady reason to prepare her Obedience; which, no sooner was the Dinner finished, but she as soon performed; nothing thought upon, but joy at the matter, and wonder at the accident: every one pleased to see such a Unity of Goodness, and all delighted to have a business so well concluded. But seeing time had unclasped a Book of such Jollity, there was now no further disputing, for the Ladies flocked about her to attend her into the Chamber: where
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The History of *Patient Grissel*.

the young Prince's her Daughter was as ready as the best to apparel her: so that when she came amongst them again, she shined like the Sun after a tempest, and seemed more Glorious, because her continued modesty kept her from all insulting and vain Glorious brabery.

Thus was the Marquis invested as it were with a new Blessedness, and she continued in her Old constancy; only admired and revered for her worth, as he was esteemed and regarded for his wisdom: the Nobles applying themselves to Renown his Estate, and the People proud they had such a Lord to obey; especially satisfied, when the poor Janicola was advanced to his Counsel, and made Governour of his Palace: wherein he behaved himself so discreetly during his Life, that he dyed with the memory of a good report. Grissel lived Thirty Years after him, and all went to their Graves in good time; the Country Renowned over the World for their admirable Government, and famous for their extraordinary wonder.

FINIS.



